

Alexandria Gazette

VOL. XCIII.---NO. 191.

ALEXANDRIA, VA., FRIDAY EVENING, AUGUST 12, 1892.

PRICE 2 CTS.

MEDICINAL.
ELY'S CATARRH CREAM BALM
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TRY THE CURE.
A particle is applied to each nostril and is agreeable. Price 50 cents at druggists; by mail, registered, 60 cents.
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ERYBEST
U. S. DENTAL ASSOCIATION,
COR. 7th and D STS. N. W.,
Washington, D. C.
The following letter explains itself:
Anacostia, D. C., May 8, 1892.
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Gentlemen: Having had several teeth extracted with your wonderful anesthetic, Zonine, I most emphatically recommend it. The operations were performed without the slightest pain while I was wide awake and in full possession of my senses.
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VERY BEST TEETH (full set), 8.00
Solid Gold Crowns, 7.50
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Good all the time. It removes the languor of morning, sustains the energies of noon, hurls the weariness of night.
Hires Root Beer
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Don't be deceived if a dealer, for the sake of a larger profit, tells you some other kind is "just as good." It is false. No imitation is as good as the genuine Hires.
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SOFT PULVERIZED Florida Phosphate.
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It is especially recommended for wheat and grass, and will bring equal results with any phosphate now sold.
The price for this new fertilizer is in reach of every farmer. Write for prices and circulars.
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The highest market price paid for Old Wrought and Cast Iron, Brass and Copper.
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at HENRY BAADER'S,
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Tri-Weekly one year \$4; six months \$2; three months \$1.
All transient advertisements must be paid for in advance.
Contract advertisers will not be allowed to exceed their space unless the excess is paid for at transient rates, and under no circumstances will they be allowed to advertise other than their legitimate business in the space contracted for.
Marriage and death notices must be paid for in advance.
Resolutions in memoriam, of thanks, tributes of respect, resolutions adopted by societies or persons, unless of public concern, will only be printed in this paper as advertisements.
The GAZETTE office is connected with the Telephone Exchange. Advertisements, orders for the paper, news or any information or business can be sent by telephone.
[Entered at the Postoffice Alexandria, Virginia, as second-class matter.]

The Hanging Terror of Ice.

The disaster by which the Savoyard village of St. Gervais-les-Bains, on the direct road from Geneva to Chamouni and Mt. Blanc, and the smaller villages of Favet and Bionnay, in the valley of the River Arve, have suffered so terribly, turns out to be one of the most remarkable in that long series of avalanches that make the human history of the Alps so thrilling and painful. It seems, by the careful and scientific study which Professor F. A. Forel, of Morges, has made, that a high glacier on the Tete-Rousses, so called, at an altitude of more than 10,000 feet, let fall a glacial mass of more than 35,000,000 cubic feet down a height of at least 3,000 feet; that this enormous mass of ice and rock disengaged so much heat by its fall as to melt as well as pulverize the glacier-fragment, which was further melted by contact with the warm surfaces and substances it encountered on its way, and was thus converted into viscous mud, and in that form rushed suddenly down on the unlucky villages. The result was shocking. Professor Forel thus describes it: "The molten mass was fluid enough to slip down a slope of 10 feet in 100; it was dense enough to overthrow everything in its passage. I estimate that it spent about half an hour, perhaps a little more, in reaching the Arve from the point of its fall. In a few minutes everything had gone by and there remained only a coating of mud, covering all the ruins with its infected and viscous slime. In this enormous fall from so great a height, extending horizontally more than eight miles, I find the most gigantic example I know of a glacial avalanche. Avalanches of 7,000 feet fall, extending four and a half miles, have been known, but all others are of much smaller dimensions. The condition of the muddy channel in which the substance ran, shows that it was a viscous and not a fluid mass; for alongside of heaps of mud, which I saw drying slowly, flowers were to be seen, only from two to four inches off, and ears of wheat that had not been wet nor soiled by the mud. Again, in the houses flooded but not destroyed—in a house at Bionnay, for instance, used for a school, the floor was covered with mud, but a few inches higher up the scholars' desks were not soiled by dirty water, the walls were dry, &c. Now, dirty water, in order to deposit a layer of mud 12 inches thick, must have been 6 or 8 feet deep; but here the sheet of water did not much rise above the mud, as I saw it three days after it had been deposited."

What adds to the singularity of this disaster is that no such avalanche has been known to occur in this region, nor was this huge and distant glacier at all dreaded by those who lived near it. Professor Forel says: "Neither at St. Gervais nor at Bionnay did anyone know of any such calamity before; but it is likely that this glacier did detach a few avalanches each year, only, being small, they did not reach the villages."

In the three villages more than 150 persons seem to have been destroyed. The houses that remain are mostly uninhabitable. Where the soil has not been swept away the crops are choked up with a thick layer of mud. The small animals have perished. "Happy are the families," says one writer, "that have been annihilated with all that they possess." The question is now raised whether the disaster could have been prevented. Professor Forel says: "We know that the glaciers of the Mt. Blanc group are at present all increasing and I find in this event a mournful illustration of a report addressed by me last spring to the government of the Canton Valais, in which I set forth that all the catastrophes of the high Alps are due to an advance of some glacier. I also called upon the authorities of that canton to have their glaciers inspected, since all of them were beginning to grow and move forward. The Cantonal Council attended to the request, and gave the matter in charge of the inspector of forests. I did not expect, however, a confirmation so speedy of my fears. But could this calamity have been foreseen and would it have been possible for an intelligent supervision to have given notice to those in danger? In the present case I think not. Under other conditions it would be possible. But here no one, as I think, could have suspected a danger so remote and yet so awful."

It seems that the particular glacier responsible for this accident is not that of Bionnay, nearest to St. Gervais, but a more formidable one higher up. Beyond the little village of Houches, the first in the vale of Chamouni, not far from which, but still higher up, under the rocky peaks of the Tete-Rousses, in the best region for the chamois hunter, was this hanging terror, known chiefly to these hunters, which suddenly slipped from its perch, slid down a declivity of 70 feet in the hundred, passed to the right of the glacier of Bionnay, and then, following a ravine of the mountain torrents, fell upon the ill-fated villages which became its prey. Few could have guessed that such would have been its course, even had they known its situation or its condition.

It should be added that the villages destroyed, although in French territory, are but a few miles from the border of the Swiss canton of Valais, which lies on the headwaters of the Rhone and the slopes of the Mt. Blanc range.

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None Genuine without this Trade-Mark.
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EXTERNAL REMEDY
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Of the Best Varieties.
AT THE LOWEST MARKET RATES.
WATERMELONS ON ICE delivered to any part of the city.
VEGETABLES of all kinds during the season, as well as every variety of FRESH FISH known in these waters.
Orders from the country solicited and satisfaction guaranteed.
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PIKRON PAINT for Wood, Willow, Cane, Wall Paper, &c., &c., 12 beautiful shades, in bottles at 10 and 25c. Also Pikron for glass to produce imitation stained glass. A full supply just received by
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